

MAJ. G. W. CANDEE.

MARCH 2, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McKenna, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 633.]

The Committee on Claims, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 633) for the relief of Maj. G. W. Candee, having considered the same, reports as follows:

For the reasons and facts mentioned in the report of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs of the Forty-sixth Congress, which report is hereto attached and adopted, the committee recommends the passage of the bill.

[Senate Report No. 462, Forty-sixth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 904) for the relief of Maj. G. W. Candee, paymaster, United States Army, have duly considered the same and accompanying papers, and recommend that it pass.

The facts upon which this recommendation is based are so fully set forth in the reports of Major Candee and the Paymaster-General that your committee ask to make them a part of their report.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 8, 1880.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the House of Representatives, for the Committee on Military Affairs, copies of reports of Maj. G. W. Candee, paymaster, United States Army, and Brig. Gen. Benjamin Alvord, Paymaster-General United States Army, dated, respectively, December 29, 1879, and January 3, 1880, containing information called for under date of December 9, 1879, by the Hon. Benjamin Le Fevre, subcommittee of the Committee on Military Affairs, in relation to the inclosed bill (H. R. 3049) for the relief of Maj. G. W. Candee.

ALEX. RAMSEY,
Secretary of War.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.,
Washington, D. C., December 19, 1879.

SIR: The accompanying bill (H. R. 3049) for the relief of Maj. G. W. Candee, paymaster, United States Army, is before the committee, and referred to me for examination and report.

I respectfully request the following information, viz:

1st. The military history of the officer.

2d. Was there a want of reasonable care and diligence exercised by the paymaster,

Major Candee, while on disbursing duty at Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory, at the time \$2,650 was stolen from his safe?

3d. Is much consideration due Major Candee for his promptness in repairing the loss of the amount of money stolen?

4th. If no fault is attached to Major Candee, and his reputation is that of a faithful, industrious, and honorable paymaster, would the Department hold it to be an act of justice if the relief asked for in bill H. R. 3049 was granted?

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. LE FEVRE,
Subcommittee.

Hon. ALEXANDER RAMSEY,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

[Second indorsement.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29th, 1879.

Respectfully returned to the Paymaster-General, inviting attention to the following report:

Nov. 15th, 1869, I received orders from my immediate superior officer, Col. N. W. Brown, Asst. P. M. G., U. S. A., which orders commanded me to leave my station, Fort Smith, Ark., and proceed on a disbursing tour in a prescribed district, and pay the troops stationed therein. For the purpose I took with me \$83,000 in paper currency of the U. S., in packages running from \$100 to \$5,000. At the Creek Agency, I. T., two companies of the 10th Cav. were stationed. In paying the said command I used \$2,350, from a \$5,000 package, which amount paid was marked off the strap that secured the bills; the broken package I returned to the safe and placed it with the unbroken packages forming the top layer; I locked the safe and put the key in my pocket, resumed my journey, arriving at Ft. Arbuckle, I. T., at four o'clock p. m., Nov. 25th, 1869. I accepted an invitation extended to me by Capt. Joseph B. Rife, 6th Inf'y, to share his quarters during my temporary residence at the post. After luncheon, arrangements were made to begin the payment of the troops. I unlocked and took from my safe several packages of money, locking my safe afterwards; my clerk assisted in the removing of the straps and placing the bills on the pay-table. When I ceased disbursing for the day I returned to the safe the small amount of money left on the table. As I locked and took the key from the safe, my clerk, Lewis Candee, enquired if I remembered having assorted the broken \$5,000 package; I replied I did not handle it. My clerk secured the straps that were taken from the packages of bills paid out. We retired to my sleeping apartment; my clerk looked over the straps; the one belonging to the broken package was not among the number; the contents of the safe were removed, and no trace of the broken package containing the \$2,650 was to be found. On my return to my station, Ft. Smith, Ark., I balanced my accounts, and found a deficit of exactly \$2,650. It is evident it had been taken from the safe soon after it was opened, and during the few minutes when my clerk and myself had our faces to the pay-table, arranging the bills in rows and piles of their respective denominations. The loss of the \$2,650 being established, my brother, who was then my clerk, insisted that Capt. Rife was the thief. I naturally felt that he committed the act, as there was no other way for me to account for the loss, he being the only other occupant of the quarters besides my brother and myself, yet it was a hard matter to charge the officer, whose hospitality I was accepting, as being the thief, when I did not detect him in the act of appropriating the money. In obedience to instructions, my brother went to Richfield, Ill., and obtained from my father \$2,650, to make good the loss, which amount was deposited with the asst. treasurer of the U. S. at St. Louis, Mo.

It is the unanimous opinion of the officers stationed at Fort Arbuckle at the time that Captain Rife was the person who abstracted the \$2,650, which belief is strengthened by a later act of Capt. Joseph B. Rife. While commanding an escort for Maj. David Taylor, P. M., U. S. A., he took from Major Taylor's pocket during the night, while he was asleep, the key to his safe, opened it, and stole from the only remaining \$10,000 a package of \$1,000, which theft later he acknowledged and paid back the amount by draft, drawn on his brother, in Philadelphia, Pa. At this time Captain Rife was forced to resign on account of serious charges then pending, aside from the theft of the \$1,000. There can be no question; it is plain that he appropriated the \$2,650.

I feel as though I am in no manner deserving of reprehension and that the desired relief should be granted, as the loss occurred through no fault of my own.

(Signed)

G. W. CANDEE,
Paymaster, U. S. Army.

[Third indorsement.]

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
January 3, 1880.

Respectfully returned to the Hon. Secretary of War.

As to the military history of Maj. George W. Candee, paymaster, he was first appointed an additional paymaster February 23, 1864, and was mustered out January 15, 1866. He was afterwards appointed a paymaster in the Army, January 17, 1867, under the eighteenth section of act of 28th July, 1866, which required the vacancies to be selected from those who had served as additional paymasters. His being selected for reappointment exhibits his standing during the war, and his entire course since has been confirmatory of the high character he has always held for probity, vigilance, and intelligent discharge of his duties. Thus I doubt not the affidavits presented by himself and his clerk, Lewis Candee, his brother, deserve to be treated with entire respect. His averment as to his care, caution, and diligence on the occasion referred to should have great weight. His brother, Lewis Candee, several years clerk to him, stands very high in character.

No report of this transaction was made to this office. Major Candee, no doubt, refrained from making such report and applied at once to his father for the money to replace the amount under the supposition that the loss must be promptly made up in order to maintain his record.

I think that consideration is due this officer for his prompt restitution. The claim he has for legislation in this case is not absolute, but in proportion to his long and faithful service to the Government.

In private life, a rich bank often makes good to a painstaking, faithful teller an amount unluckily paid or lost, when there is unmistakable evidence of high character and fidelity, though the act of the bank must be one not at all founded on legal claims, but prompted by the bounty of the corporation in the spirit of generosity and good policy towards an unfortunate employé.

(Signed)

BENJ. ALVORD,
Paymaster-General U. S. Army.

I, Charles H. Smith, clerk of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an instrument of writing now on file in the committee room of the Military Committee aforesaid.

Witness my hand this 21st day of February, A. D. 1880.

CHARLES H. SMITH,
Clerk Military Committee House of Representatives.

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